

## WHAT IS THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES?

The National Register of Historic Places is the official federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture. Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a nationwide program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect our historic and archaeological resources. The National Register is administered on the national level by the National Park Service. In Colorado, the program is administered by the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (State Historic Preservation Office), part of History Colorado. More than 80,000 listings from across the country make up the National Register.

The Colorado State Register of Historic Properties is the state's list of historically significant properties and is administered solely by History Colorado. The nomination criteria and process are nearly identical to the National Register. Properties listed in the National Register are automatically listed in the State Register.

### NOMINATION CRITERIA

To be eligible for listing in the National Register, nominators must demonstrate that a property is:

- A.** Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B.** Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C.** Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entry whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D.** Have yielded or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Additionally, the State Register considers the geographic importance of a property.

Properties must possess integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association in relation to their significance. Generally, properties eligible for listing on the National Register are at least 50 years old; State Register properties are at least 30 years old. Properties fewer than 50 years of age must be exceptionally important to be considered eligible for listing in the National Register, and likewise for those less than 30 years old for the State Register.



*Millage Farm, Phillips County*

### BENEFITS OF LISTING

- ▶ Formal recognition of the significance and history of your community by the state and the nation.
- ▶ Creation of a body of information that can be used for community planning, heritage tourism, and neighborhood revitalization.
- ▶ Eligibility to apply for state tax credits for restoration, rehabilitation, or preservation.
- ▶ Eligibility to obtain federal rehabilitation tax credits for income-producing properties that meet specific standards for work.
- ▶ Eligibility to compete for grants from the History Colorado State Historical Fund. These grants may be used for acquisition, development, education, survey, planning and archaeology projects.
- ▶ Ability to purchase and display a plaque that commemorates designation.
- ▶ Increased property value. Nationwide studies show that designated historic districts outpace undesignated neighborhoods in market value.

- ▶ Limited protection from federal agency actions that would affect the property, also known as Section 106 review. For more information, see [www.achp.gov/docs/citizens-guide-2015.pdf](http://www.achp.gov/docs/citizens-guide-2015.pdf).
- ▶ Access to federal tax deductions and state tax credits for charitable contributions of partial interests (easements) for conservation purposes.

### CAN MY PROPERTY BE LISTED WITHOUT MY CONSENT?

Anyone may prepare a nomination to the National Register; however, a property will not be listed if, for individual properties, the owner objects, or for districts, a majority of property owners object. State Register nominations must include a signed consent form from all owners.

### ARE RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON MY PROPERTY IF IT IS LISTED IN THE NATIONAL OR STATE REGISTERS?

Under federal and Colorado state law, owners of private properties listed in the National Register or State Register are free to maintain, manage, or dispose of their property as they choose, provided there is no federal or State involvement in those decisions. Owners have no obligation to open their properties to the public, to restore them, or even to maintain them. There are no restrictions imposed by History Colorado as to what private property owners may or may not do with their property. Private property owners may alter or demolish a National or State Register-listed property subject only to local government regulations and permitting procedures.

In some communities, properties listed in the National Register may be automatically designated as local landmarks. Sometimes local landmark programs require approval by a local review board before changes to the property can be made. A list of Colorado communities with local landmarking programs is available at [historycolorado.org](http://historycolorado.org).



## NOMINATION PROCESS – BASIC STEPS

Complete nominations are accepted three times a year and are reviewed by the Colorado State Historic Preservation Review Board at a public meeting. National and State Register Historians are available to assist with the initial assessment of eligibility and to provide guidance on the completion of nominations.

To learn more about the process of nominating a property or district to the National or State Register, please visit History Colorado's website at [www.historycolorado.org/how-do-i-nominate-my-property](http://www.historycolorado.org/how-do-i-nominate-my-property)

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

*National Register Federal Program Regulations*  
(36 CFR Part 60): [www.nps.gov/nr/regulations.htm](http://www.nps.gov/nr/regulations.htm)

*National Register of Historic Places Program E-AQ:*  
[www.nps.gov/nr/faq.htm](http://www.nps.gov/nr/faq.htm)

*Federal Tax Incentives:*  
[www.nps.gov/tips/tax-incentives.htm](http://www.nps.gov/tips/tax-incentives.htm)

*History Colorado:*  
[www.historycolorado.org/national-state-registers](http://www.historycolorado.org/national-state-registers)

*Colorado State Tax Incentives:*  
[www.historycolorado.org/preservation-tax-credits](http://www.historycolorado.org/preservation-tax-credits)

*State Historical Fund:*  
[www.historycolorado.org/state-historical-fund](http://www.historycolorado.org/state-historical-fund)  
*Colorado listings in the National and State Registers:*  
[www.historycolorado.org/properties-listed-national-state-registers](http://www.historycolorado.org/properties-listed-national-state-registers)



*Comanche Drive-In, Buena Vista*

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*Downtown Florence Historic District, Fremont County*

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